



At a Glance

January 30, 2015

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Breaking News

HCPF On Social Media

The Department has launched an official social media presence via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We'll be using these channels as an additional way to engage with our varied audiences while echoing the messages of our sister state agencies. Want to join in and help us spread the word? Please [Follow HCPF on Twitter](#) and [Like Us on Facebook](#), and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Colorado Department of Human Services Launches New Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline



The Colorado Department of Human Services launched a new statewide child abuse and neglect hotline – **1-844-CO-4-KIDS** on January 1. Governor

Hickenlooper's Child Welfare Plan "Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy" called for the creation of the hotline to promote greater safety for Colorado's children.

Designed to provide one, easy-to-remember phone number for individuals to use statewide to report suspected child abuse and neglect, the hotline serves as a direct, immediate and efficient route to Colorado's 64 counties and two tribal nations, which are responsible for accepting and responding to child abuse and neglect inquiries and reports. All callers will be able to reach someone via the hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

For more information, visit [the CDHS web page](#).

Legislative Update

Wednesday, January 7, marked the opening day of the first session of the 70th General Assembly. Per the Constitution, the Colorado legislature is in session for no more than 120 days, adjourning on May 6, 2015. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (D-Boulder) was elected as Speaker of the House. Bill Cadman (R-Colorado Springs) was elected as President of the Senate. Out of 100 members, this year's General Assembly will feature ten new Senators and 20 new Representatives.

The Department has two bills:

[HB15-1079](#) Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program

The bill allows the General Assembly to appropriate general fund moneys to implement and administer the teen pregnancy and dropout prevention program and extends the repeal date of the program from September 1, 2016 to September 1, 2020.

Status: First Hearing in House Finance Committee on Thursday, January, 29, Upon Adjournment

Eliminate the Children with Autism Waitlist

The bill would increase the age for the waiver to 8, guarantee 3 years of services regardless of when a child enrolled, and increase the service cap limit and allow the cap to fluctuate in order to increase provider rates.

Status: The Joint Budget Committee voted 6-0 to carry the Children with Autism Waiver Expansion bill. Senator Pat Steadman and Representative Dave Young are the sponsors.

For more information, please contact [Zach Lynkiewicz](#)

Connect for Health Colorado, Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* Enrollment Update

Between November 15 and January 15, more than 171,000 Coloradans enrolled in healthcare coverage for 2015, either in Medicaid, Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) or in private health insurance purchased through the state health insurance Marketplace, according to new data released this week by Connect for Health Colorado and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

For more information, see the [full joint press release](#).

Sneak Peek: PEAHealth Mobile App for Medicaid & Child Health Plan *Plus* Clients



Launched in late December, the new PEAHealth mobile app gives Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) members a simple way to keep their information up to date and access important health information right from their phone.

The PEAHealth app is for **current** Medicaid and CHP+ clients who have a PEA account to sign on. PEAHealth is **not** for people who want to

apply for benefits.

The PEAHealth app will allow clients to search for a provider, view an electronic version of their medical card, update their income and contact information, view benefit information, make a payment and access health and wellness resources.

PEAHealth is available for free in the Apple and Google Play app stores.

The Department is currently doing a 'soft launch' of the PEAHealth app and proactive outreach to clients will begin in spring, 2015.

For more information on the PEAHealth mobile app watch this [video tour](#).

Increase Enrollment

Partner and Consumer Resources

The Department has posted resources online for partners and consumers. The resources include [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\) guidance](#) on the Federal Income Tax and Advanced Premium Tax Credits and an update on known issues related to the health coverage application process and shopping experience. The following resources can be found on Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources:

- [How Health Coverage Affects Your 2014 Federal Income Tax Return](#) (Federal HHS Resource)
- [Affordable Care Act Tax Provisions](#) (IRS Resources)
- [3 Tips About Marketplace Coverage and Your Taxes](#) (Federal HHS Resource)
- [Health Care Law: What's New for Individuals and Families](#) (IRS Resource)
- [No Health Coverage? What That Means for Your Taxes](#) (Federal HHS Resource)
- [Application Process and Shopping Experience Updated January 21, 2015](#)

Marketplace Verifications

If you receive verifications from an applicant or client that should be directed to Connect for Health Colorado, please encourage the individual to follow the submission steps outlined in the [January 15 ACA Implementation News](#). If you have received these verifications without having had client contact, please fax them to 1-855-346-5175. If known, please write the Marketplace Account Number and Case ID Number on each document.

Reminder: Changes to 5% Income Disregard

As part of the Affordable Care Act, an income disregard in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was established. Prior to January 1, 2015, the 5% income disregard was automatically applied to all Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) populations for the purposes of determining eligibility for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). Beginning on January 1, 2015, the Department implemented rule changes issued by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the manner in which the 5% income disregard is applied to individuals applying for Medicaid and CHP+.

The 5% income disregard will now be applied when countable income exceeds the FPL for MAGI populations under Medicaid or CHP+. The 5% income disregard is **not** applied to every MAGI eligibility determination and will be applied as a last step in determining eligibility when an individual exceeds the income limit, but is within the income standard if the 5% income disregard were applied.

For more information on this change that took effect January 1, 2015, please see the FAQs on Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources > Fact Sheets & Frequently Asked Questions.

PEAK Resources and Trainings

PEAK resources and training information is now available on the [PEAK Outreach Initiative's Outreach and Training site](#) or tinyurl.com/peakoutreach

The site hosts a variety of outreach and training resources for community partners, including:

- Important PEAK announcements and news
- PEAK View newsletters
- Live webinar and training calendar
- PEAK On-Demand recorded webinars
- PEAK User Guides
- PEAK support call schedule

- PEAK logo usage guidelines and files

The PEAK Outreach Team will continue to distribute the PEAK View newsletter on a monthly basis, but you will also be able to stay up-to-date on PEAK happenings and resource materials through the PEAK Outreach & Training site.

For more information, contact PEAKOutreach@bouldercounty.org.

Improve Health Outcomes

Member and Family Advisory Council

Interested in contributing to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's person- and family-centered work?

The goal of this advisory council is to gather feedback and ideas from Medicaid members and their families on how to integrate more person- and family-centered practices into policies, partnerships and programs. The advisory council plans to meet 6 to 8 times in 2015. Mileage reimbursement and incentives for participation are available.

We want to hear from you if...

- You or your family have Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus*
- You can commit to serving on the Committee for 1 year
- You have regular access to e-mail

Please [apply on our web page](#); the **deadline to apply is February 9, 2015**.

For more information, contact [Olivia Covey](#).

Data Collection Study

The Department has begun preparing for the 2015 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) data collection study. The Department has contracted with Health Services Advisory Group, Inc. (HSAG), to conduct this study.

Beginning in February, Guardian Angel Consulting will be contacting providers to collect the necessary medical records. It is critical to the success of the study that providers respond with the requested information as soon as possible.

Obtaining a signed release form from the member is not necessary; by signing the client's Medicaid application, the member has already agreed to medical record access. In addition, the provider contract/agreement with the Department contains a statement allowing the Department and its designees access to the medical records of Medicaid members. The Code of Colorado Regulations allows the Department or its designees to obtain copies of medical records "at the expense of the provider"; therefore, reimbursement to the provider or to vendors photocopying medical records is not offered.

If you receive a medical record request, you must send your charts to Guardian Angel Consulting prior to the **May 9, 2015, deadline**. Please do **not** send charts to Guardian Angel Consulting after this date, as they will not be included in the study. Thank you for your cooperation towards the success of this project.

*HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

If you have any questions about the 2015 HEDIS data collection study, please contact [Rachel Henrichs](#), HSAG project coordinator, at 303-755-1912, or [Russell Kennedy](#), at 303-866-3340.

Colorado Medicaid Dental Program Updates

Adult Dental

The Department will present its initial reading of the revisions to the Adult Dental Services rule for the [Medical Services Board](#) (MSB) hearing on February 13, 2015 at 9 a.m. The Department is updating this rule to provide clarification as a result of stakeholder feedback collected during the drafting of the children's dental rule and feedback received from the dental provider community since the implementation of the comprehensive adult dental benefit on July 1, 2014.

Children's Dental

The revisions to the Children's Dental Rule that were approved by the [Medical Services Board](#) (MSB) on October 10, 2014 went into effect on November 30, 2014. The final version is available on the Code of Colorado Regulations website, scroll to [section 8.202 "Dental Services for Children"](#) on page 25 of the rule.

Orthodontia

The Department has decided to push out the planned series of meetings as part of the Orthodontic Benefits Collaborative until later this spring to allow additional time for the Department to consult with its dental Administrative Service Organization (ASO) regarding the administration of the orthodontic benefit. The Department will reach out to the orthodontic provider community to ensure that adequate notice is given regarding the identification of dates and meeting location(s). The Department will not change the orthodontia policy prior to the collaborative process and Medical Services Board (MSB) approval. Additionally, the collaborative process will address issues previously raised by orthodontic stakeholders. The rule making process is likely to begin in summer 2015 following the collaborative process.

Benefit Administration Transition to DentaQuest

As the Department's dental Administrative Services Organization (ASO) for Medicaid, DentaQuest is responsible for managing the Medicaid adult and children's dental benefit programs. Medicaid members can reach DentaQuest's Member Services at 1-855-225-1729 (TTY 711), Monday – Friday between 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or visit their website at [DentaQuest.com](#) for assistance with their Medicaid dental questions.

Providers can contact DentaQuest's Provider Services at 1-855-225-1731 (TTY 711) if they need assistance or they can visit DentaQuest's [Providers website](#).

Colorado Dental Health Care Program for Low-Income Seniors Request for Grant Proposals

The Department has worked with the Dental Advisory Committee (DAC) to establish the Colorado Dental Health Care Program for Low-Income Seniors. Through the dedication of the DAC, the Department is pleased to announce the release of the request for grant proposals. The [Department's website](#) includes all information that will be required to submit grant proposals along with timelines and other beneficial information.

For more information, contact [Chandra Vital](#).

Benefits Collaborative Stakeholder Meetings

The Department has scheduled a series of upcoming stakeholder meetings related to various Benefits Collaborative Processes. Topics discussed will include: the definition of medical necessity, revisions to private duty nursing policy and the development of a genetic testing policy. The Benefits Collaborative Process is the Department's formal policy development process and is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

Meeting dates may be found on the [Benefits Collaborative Meeting Schedule page](#) of the Department website.

For more information on any of these meetings or to RSVP, please email BenefitsCollaborative@state.co.us.

Colorado Indigent Care Program Reminder

As a reminder, the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP) is available for Coloradans who qualify. A majority of Coloradans who qualify for CICP may now be eligible for Medicaid or may qualify for tax credits or cost sharing reductions through the Connect for Health Colorado marketplace. The Department is not proposing funding or policy changes to CICP at this time or in the near future. It is important to remember that CICP is **NOT** health insurance and will not satisfy the [federal requirement to have coverage](#). The Department has developed a fact sheet for CICP and discusses the impact of the Affordable Care Act on CICP clients. Click [here](#) for the fact sheet or find it at Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources. Click [here](#) for **additional** information about CICP.

Home Modification Stakeholder Workgroup

The Department has partnered with the Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) Division of Housing to increase the quality of the home modification benefit provided to clients. The next six months will be a transition period during which both the Department and DOLA will be soliciting input on proposed changes to oversight of the home modification benefit.

The Department and DOLA will be co-facilitating a series of stakeholder workgroups for the home modification benefit every fourth Friday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, at 303 E. 17th Ave, Denver, Room 7AB.

To participate by phone, call:

Local: 720-279-0026

Toll Free: 1-877-820-7831

Participant code: 516148#

We welcome participation from all groups involved in the home modification process, including clients, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists, case managers, contractors and local building code officials.

For more information, contact [Diane Byrne](#).

Contain Costs

Accountable Care Collaborative Update

The Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) Program represents a committed effort to transform the Medicaid program into a system of better care for all its members, and to lower costs for the State of Colorado.

Estimated ACC enrollment as of January 1, 2015 was 775,327.

Medical Services Board

Public Rule Review Opportunities

Partners who are interested in a one-on-one discussion with Department staff about upcoming rules are invited to attend the Department's Public Rule Review Meeting. Information is available on the [Public Rule Review Meetings](#) web page. Reasonable accommodations for the meetings are provided upon request for persons with disabilities.

If you would like more information, or to be added to the Medical Services Board email distribution list, please contact [Judi Carey](#).

Disability Rights Notice

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing does not discriminate against any person on the basis of disability in its programs, services, and activities. To meet the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Department adopted operating procedure [ADA001 Disability Rights Policy and Grievance Procedure](#). More information including a copy of this policy is available on the Department's [website](#). For further information or to file a discrimination complaint contact:

504/ADA Coordinator

Health Care Policy & Financing

1570 Grant Street

Denver, Colorado 80203

Telephone: 303-866-6010

FAX: 303-866-2828

State Relay: 711

Email: hcpf504ada@state.co.us

Employment Opportunities

Applying for state government jobs is easy. Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the [website](#) for State of Colorado jobs including the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing jobs.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees' Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance

options, 10 holidays, and accrual of paid sick and vacation time. The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

Enrollment

In December 2014, there were 1,153,171 Coloradans enrolled in Medicaid and 53,300 Coloradans enrolled in CHP+.

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